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United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
New York, 27 August-7 September 2012

Report of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/64, the General Assembly recalled its decision to convene a conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, for a period of two weeks, in New York in 2012.

2. In its resolution 66/47, the General Assembly decided that the second Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects would be held in New York from 27 August to 7 September 2012 and that the Preparatory Committee for the Conference would be convened in New York from 19 to 23 March 2012. In addition, the Assembly invited States, at the Conference, to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, and, subject to the agenda of the Conference to be agreed by the Preparatory Committee, encouraged them to explore ways to strengthen its implementation, including consideration of the possibility of convening a further open-ended meeting of governmental experts.

3. The Preparatory Committee held its session at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 23 March 2012. Its report is contained in document A/CONF.192/2012/RC/1.

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4. By its decision I, the Preparatory Committee recommended U. Joy Ogwu of Nigeria for the presidency of the Conference and requested that she undertake informal consultations, including open-ended informal consultations, if required, in the period before the Conference. The President-designate appointed Claire Elias (Australia), Amr Aljowaily (Egypt), Bibi Sheliza Ally (Guyana) and Tomoaki Ishigaki (Japan) to serve as facilitators. Amr Aljowaily (Egypt) was also appointed moderator for the International Tracing Instrument.

II. Organizational matters and proceedings of the Conference

A. Opening and duration of the Conference

5. The United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was convened at United Nations Headquarters from 27 August to 7 September 2012. The Conference was opened on 27 August by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. At the same meeting, U. Joy Ogwu was elected President of the Conference. The Acting President of the General Assembly and the Deputy Secretary-General addressed the Conference. Daniël Prins of the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as Secretary-General of the Conference. The Conference held plenary meetings and informal meetings. The list of participants is contained in document A/CONF.192/2012/RC/INF/2.

B. Rules of procedure

6. At its 1st meeting, on 27 August, the Conference adopted its rules of procedure (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/L.2).

C. Agenda

7. At its 1st meeting, on 27 August, the Conference adopted the agenda (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/L.1) as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. Election of the President.
3. Statement by the President.
4. Address by the President of the General Assembly.
5. Address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
6. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
7. Adoption of the agenda.
8. Organization of work.
9. Election of officers other than the President.

10. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:

(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

11. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the Conference.

12. General exchange of views.

13. Statements by intergovernmental organizations.

14. Statements by non-governmental organizations.

15. Adoption of the final documents of the Conference.

16. Adoption of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly.

D. Officers

8. The composition of the Bureau of the Conference was as follows:

President:

U. Joy Ogwu (Nigeria)

Vice-Presidents:

Brazil
Czech Republic
Germany
Guyana
Hungary
Indonesia
Japan
Kenya
Madagascar
New Zealand
Norway
Peru
Romania

E. Documentation

9. The Conference had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/1);

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/2);

(c) Letter dated 7 September 2012 from the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/3);

(d) Provisional agenda (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/L.1);

(e) Provisional rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/L.2);

(f) Draft report of the Conference (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/L.3);

(g) Draft outcome documents of the Conference (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/L.4 and Rev.1 and A/CONF.192/2012/RC/CRP.3 and Rev.1-3, issued as informal papers);[1]

(h) List of non-governmental organizations (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/INF/1);

(i) List of participants (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/INF/2);

(j) Working paper submitted by Australia, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Kenya and South Sudan on international cooperation and assistance (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/WP.1);

(k) Working paper submitted by the Southern Common Market and associated States (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/WP.2);

(l) Draft indicative programme of work (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/CRP.1);[1]

(m) Working paper submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement;[1]

(n) Working paper submitted by the Pacific Island Forum and the Caribbean Community States;[1]

(o) Working paper submitted by the League of Arab States;[1]

(p) Working paper submitted by the European Union.[1]

III. Credentials

10. Pursuant to rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/L.2), according to which the composition of the Credentials Committee shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, the Conference appointed China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Italy, Maldives, Panama, the Russian Federation, Senegal and the United States of America as members of the Credentials Committee of the Conference.

11. At its 14th meeting, on 7 September, the Conference adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee, which had examined the credentials of the representatives of the member States to the Conference and found them to be in order (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/2, para. 14).

IV. General exchange of views

12. At its 1st to 5th meetings, from 27 to 29 August, the Conference held its high-level segment and general exchange of views and heard statements by the representatives of the following States: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Brazil (on behalf of the Common Market of the South), Burkina Faso, China, Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States), Cuba, Czech Republic, Djibouti, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany,

[1] Available from www.poa-iss.org/RevCon2/documents.

Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), India, Indonesia (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and in its own capacity), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum and in its own capacity), Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of African States and in its own capacity), Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zambia. Statements were also made by the representative of the Holy See and the observer from the European Union.

Statements by intergovernmental organizations

13. At its 4th meeting, on 28 August, the Conference heard statements from the following organizations: International Criminal Police Organization, League of Arab States, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms, East African Community, Organization of American States, North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Regional Centre on Small Arms.

Statements by non-governmental organizations

14. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 28 and 29 August, the Conference heard statements by representatives of the following organizations: International Action Network on Small Arms, World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities, Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, National Firearms Association, Second Amendment Foundation and Defense Small Arms Advisory Council.

V. Consideration and adoption of the final documents of the Conference and the report of the Conference to the General Assembly

15. At its 6th to 13th meetings, from 29 August to 7 September, the Conference considered and negotiated the draft final documents.

16. At its 14th meeting, on 7 September, the Conference adopted the outcome documents by consensus (see annexes I and II). At the same meeting, the Conference adopted its report to the General Assembly by consensus.

Annex I

Outcome document on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

I. 2012 Declaration

A renewed commitment to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

1. We, the States participating in the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 27 August to 7 September 2012 to review progress made in implementation and identify areas for further implementation, reaffirm our support and commitment to implement all the provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, with a view to ending the human suffering caused by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

2. We reaffirm our respect for and commitment to our obligations under international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as those set out in the Programme of Action, including its eighth to eleventh preambular paragraphs.

3. We affirm the continued relevance and vital importance of the Programme of Action as the global framework to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, as reiterated annually in the General Assembly resolution entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects", and remain convinced that its full and effective implementation is essential for furthering peace, reconciliation and security, protecting lives and promoting sustainable development.

4. We emphasize that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects continues to sustain conflicts, exacerbate armed violence, undermine respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law, aid terrorism and illegal armed groups and facilitate increasing levels of transnational organized crime, as well as trafficking in humans, drugs and certain natural resources.

5. We acknowledge that by threatening security, safety and stability, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons continues to have devastating humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences, including by impeding the provision of humanitarian assistance to victims of armed conflict, contributing to the displacement of civilians and undermining sustainable development and poverty eradication efforts.

6. We continue to recognize the primary responsibility of Governments for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and for identifying and solving the problems associated with such trade, and to recognize the importance of regional and international cooperation in supporting and reinforcing national implementation.

7. We welcome the progress that has been made in implementing the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument since their adoption, including on the establishment, strengthening and enforcement of national laws, regulations and administrative procedures to prevent the illicit trade and illegal manufacture of small arms and light weapons, the development of national action plans, the establishment of national points of contact, the submission of voluntary national reports and the strengthening of regional cooperation, as well as progress made in implementing stockpile security, the collection and destruction of illicit small arms and light weapons, the marking of small arms and light weapons, technical training and information sharing through such forums as the Group of States Interested in Practical Disarmament Measures.

8. We welcome the significant role of regional and subregional organizations and instruments in many parts of the world in raising awareness, building capacity and promoting cooperation and assistance to support States, upon request, to implement the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. We also encourage measures to further enhance the effective role that regional and subregional organizations can play, as appropriate, in implementing the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

9. We stress, however, that implementation remains uneven and that challenges and obstacles still stand in the way of the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. We resolve to tackle these challenges, including by enhancing international cooperation and assistance.

10. We recognize the need to follow up on the previous meetings on the Programme of Action, including the Third Biennial Meeting of States (2008), the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States (2010) and the Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts (2011), and we note the related topics taken up by the General Assembly in the past decade, such as the negative humanitarian and development impact of the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons[a] and the reduction and prevention of armed violence.[b]

11. We support the further strengthening and development of norms and measures at the national, regional and global levels to reinforce and coordinate efforts that would prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

12. We recognize the value of addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across borders, in accordance with the Programme of Action, and the need to promote cooperation on this matter through the appropriate channels, with full respect for each State's sovereignty over its own borders.

13. We highlight that limited resources and differing capacities of States still pose significant challenges and obstacles to realizing the goals of the Programme of Action. We underscore the continued necessity for international cooperation and assistance, and in particular the need for increased levels of technical and financial assistance, upon request, to build national and regional capacities to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. The strengthening of cooperation, as well as the sharing of

[a] See resolution 60/68.

[b] See resolution 63/23.

information, experience, best practices and training, as appropriate, among relevant officials such as customs, border, police, judicial, arms control and arms licensing officials at the national, regional and global levels, is essential for combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. We note the value of assessing the effectiveness of cooperation and assistance in order to ensure and improve the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

14. We remain gravely concerned about the negative impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, children, youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities and call for improved understanding of the different concerns and needs of these groups. We underscore the need to further integrate the role of women into efforts to combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

15. We welcome the important contribution of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to the Programme of Action process, including in raising awareness and assisting States, upon request, with national implementation, and we encourage further cooperation to this end. We note the important role of industry in the Programme of Action process, including in ensuring that the process is fully informed by relevant technical developments.

16. We endeavour to take full advantage of the benefits of cooperation with the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, the World Customs Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in accordance with their mandates and consistent with national priorities.

17. We resolve to address the close links between the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and armed violence, conflict, terrorism, crime, including transnational organized crime, and trafficking in humans, drugs and certain natural resources, and resolve to strengthen national, regional and international efforts aimed at combating this trade.

18. We renew our pledge to rid the world of the scourge brought upon it by the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many parts of the world. We commit to mobilizing the necessary political will and resources to implement the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. Taking into account national and regional circumstances, we aim to achieve clear and tangible results over the next six years that will improve the security, safety and livelihoods of our people by undertaking the measures in the accompanying implementation plans.

II. Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Strengthened implementation at the national, regional and global levels, 2012-2018

1. At the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 27 August to 7 September 2012, States, bearing in mind the different situations and capacities of States and regions, welcomed progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action; noted the continuing challenges to the implementation of the Programme, including the need for enhanced international cooperation and assistance; and resolved to undertake the following measures to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action over the period 2012-2018.

A. Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the national level

2. In implementing the Programme of Action at the national level, States, where they have not yet done so, undertake:

(a) To reaffirm the undertakings made in the Programme of Action at the national level, including those contained in section II, paragraph 15;

(b) To support the development and implementation of adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including the diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients;

(c) To establish or strengthen, as appropriate, national coordination mechanisms to improve coordination among governmental agencies, in particular among law enforcement, national border and customs control agencies and arms transfer licensing authorities, to implement the Programme of Action. This should include aspects of the illicit manufacture, control, trafficking, circulation, brokering and trade, as well as tracing, finance, collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons;

(d) To establish, designate or strengthen, as appropriate, a national point of contact to act as liaison between States on matters relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action and to share and update this information regularly;

(e) To ensure, in line with the commitments contained in the Programme of Action, including those relating to the assessment of applications for export authorizations, in accordance with section II, paragraph 11, of the Programme of Action, that international transfers of small arms and light weapons are duly authorized by Government;

(f) To put in place, where they do not exist, adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the production of small

arms and light weapons within their areas of jurisdiction and over the export, import, transit or retransfer of such weapons, including by strengthening the national system of export and import licensing and authorization, in order to prevent the illegal manufacture of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, including their diversion to unauthorized recipients;

(g) To implement effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, particularly in post-conflict situations, including peace agreements and peacekeeping operations;

(h) To ensure, subject to the respective constitutional and legal systems of States, that the armed forces, police or any other body authorized to hold small arms and light weapons establish adequate and detailed standards and procedures relating to the management and security of their stocks of these weapons, and to ensure that such stocks declared by competent national authorities to be surplus to requirements are clearly identified, that programmes for the responsible disposal, preferably through destruction, of such stocks are established and implemented and that such stocks are adequately safeguarded until disposal;

(i) To facilitate the participation and representation of women in small arms policymaking, taking into account relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, and to explore means to eliminate the negative impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women;

(j) To address the special needs of children affected by armed conflict, in particular their reunification with their families, reintegration into civil society and appropriate rehabilitation;

(k) To increase their efforts to submit, on a biennial basis, voluntary national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action, using, where appropriate, the reporting template provided by the United Nations Secretariat;

(l) To encourage States to develop and implement national action plans that, depending on needs and circumstances, identify national priorities, and to share experiences on the design and implementation of such plans.

B. Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the regional level

3. In implementing the Programme of Action at the regional level, States, where they have not yet done so, undertake:

(a) To encourage the establishment or designation, as appropriate, of a point of contact within subregional and regional organizations to act as liaison and facilitate cooperation on matters relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(b) To enhance, as appropriate, synergies between the Programme of Action and relevant subregional and regional instruments in which they participate, including those that are legally binding;

(c) To explore ways and means by which subregional and regional organizations can assist States, upon request, in the preparation of national reports

for the Programme of Action and for regional instruments in which they participate, and in the development of national action plans;

(d) To encourage subregional and regional organizations, including the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, to assist States, upon request, in building national capacity to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including through enhanced cooperation and the exchange of information and good practices;

(e) To establish or strengthen, where appropriate, subregional or regional cooperation, coordination and information-sharing mechanisms, in particular transborder customs cooperation and networks for information sharing among, as relevant, law enforcement and national border and customs control agencies, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across borders.

C. Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the global level

4. In implementing the Programme of Action at the global level, States, where they have not yet done so, undertake:

(a) To reaffirm the undertakings made in the Programme of Action at the global level, including those contained in section II, paragraph 32;

(b) To encourage, as appropriate, the United Nations system to allocate adequate resources and assistance to States, upon their request, in strengthening the safe storage and responsible disposal of stocks declared as surplus by competent national authorities or of unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons;

(c) To increase, as appropriate, cooperation with relevant international organizations, such as the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL, to build capacity to effectively prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and to identify those groups and individuals engaged in such trade in order to allow national authorities to proceed against them in accordance with their laws;

(d) To encourage States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to international legal instruments against terrorism and transnational organized crime, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, in particular the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the Convention;

(e) To encourage, as appropriate, cooperation with civil society, academia and industry in activities related to preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

(f) To promote dialogue and a culture of peace by continuing to encourage, as appropriate, education and public awareness programmes on the problems related to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, involving all sectors of society.

D. Implementation, international cooperation and assistance

5. Stressing that international cooperation and assistance remain critical to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, States undertake:

(a) To cooperate and ensure coordination, complementarity and synergy in efforts to deal with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and to encourage the establishment and strengthening of cooperation and partnerships at all levels among international and intergovernmental organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions;

(b) To render, when in a position to do so, in cooperation with appropriate regional and international organizations and upon request, assistance, including technical and financial assistance, such as small arms funds, to support the implementation of the measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

(c) To encourage States and regional and international organizations to provide assistance to States, upon their request, in building capacity for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, including the identification, prioritization and communication of their assistance needs, as well as, where relevant, in enhancing their ability to monitor and analyze the consequences of the uncontrolled spread of illicit small arms and light weapons and their misuse;

(d) To encourage the further development of mechanisms to increase the measurability and effectiveness of international cooperation and assistance;

(e) To explore, in cooperation with relevant regional and international organizations, including the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, means of ensuring the sustainability of assistance, including by improving trust fund arrangements, facilitating the transfer of relevant technology and ensuring the alignment of assistance with national priorities;

(f) To encourage the establishment of a voluntary multi-donor facility, in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme, to mobilize assistance for the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(g) To provide financial assistance, where appropriate, through a voluntary sponsorship fund, to enable States that are otherwise unable to do so to participate in Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument meetings;

(h) To encourage the continuing efforts of the Group of States Interested in Practical Disarmament Measures and other relevant efforts to effectively support the implementation of the Programme of Action by matching needs and resources.

III. Follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

States,

Reaffirming the importance of enhancing the coherence, effectiveness and continuity of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument implementation process,

Noting the convening of the Third Biennial Meeting of States (2008), the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States (2010) and the Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts (2011) during the 2006-2012 meeting cycle, and also reaffirming, in this regard, the utility of standardizing the schedule of meetings to the fullest extent possible,

Recalling the recommendation to clearly define and distinguish the mandates of Programme of Action meetings, as well as to link, and ensure the complementarity of, meeting mandates and outcomes,[c] such as those of the review conferences, biennial meetings of States and the open-ended meeting of governmental experts,

Schedule of meetings for 2012-2018

1. Decide to hold, in accordance with the relevant provision of the Programme of Action, a one-week biennial meeting of States in 2014 and 2016 and a one-week open-ended meeting of governmental experts in 2015 to consider the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

2. Decide to hold a third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in 2018. This Conference will be scheduled as a two-week event and be preceded by a one-week preparatory committee meeting to be held in early 2018;

3. Stress that international cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building, are of critical importance in furthering the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and therefore decide that this topic should be an integral element of all Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument meetings;

4. Also stress the importance of identifying the topics of Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument meetings well in advance so that States can prepare for them, consider their political and technical aspects and the relevant and emerging issues that have a direct impact on the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, and ensure, to the extent possible, the participation of appropriate experts/officials from States. These topics could include physical security measures of small arms and light weapons and capacity-building (including provision of equipment, technology and training);

[c] A/CONF.192/BMS/2010/3, paras. 34 and 48.

5. Reaffirm the importance of the early designation of the Chair of future Programme of Action meetings, and encourage the relevant regional group to make such a nomination, if possible, one year in advance of the meeting;[d]

Regional meetings

6. Encourage interested States and regional and international organizations in a position to do so to convene regional meetings in preparation for, and/or to follow up on, the meetings on the Programme of Action;[e]

7. Consider, where relevant, aligning the timing of regional meetings regarding illicit small arms and light weapons with the global cycle of meetings, so as to ensure, as appropriate, a maximum of synergies between actions taken at the national, regional and global levels;

Engagement of civil society

8. Further encourage civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to engage, as appropriate, in all aspects of international, regional, subregional and national efforts to implement the Programme of Action;

National reporting

9. Reaffirm the utility of synchronizing voluntary national reporting, as regards the Programme of Action, with biennial meetings of States and review conferences as a means to increase the submission rate and improve the utility of reports, as well as to contribute substantively to meeting discussions;[f]

Support for meeting participation

10. Encourage States in a position to do so, with a view to promoting wider and more equitable participation of States in Programme of Action meetings, to provide financial assistance through a voluntary sponsorship fund, where appropriate, to enable States that are otherwise unable to do so to participate in meetings of the Programme of Action.[g]

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[d] Ibid., paras. 34 and 45.

[e] Resolution 65/64, para. 22.

[f] A/CONF.192/BMS/2010/3, paras. 35 and 38.

[g] Resolution 66/47, para. 15, resolution 65/64, para. 21, and A/CONF.192/BMS/2010/3, paras. 37 and 43.

Annex II

Outcome document on the International Instrument to Enable States to Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons

Implementation plan 2012-2018

1. At the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 27 August to 7 September 2012, States, bearing in mind the different situations and capacities of States and regions, welcomed progress made in the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument; noted the continuing challenges to the implementation of the Instrument, including the need for enhanced international cooperation and assistance; and resolved to undertake the following measures towards achieving the full and effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument over the period 2012-2018.

A. Marking, record-keeping and cooperation in tracing

2. Recalling that, in the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, marking, record-keeping and tracing are highlighted as key measures to fight the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, taking into account the interlinked and mutually reinforcing nature of marking, record-keeping and tracing, and reaffirming that the choice of methods for marking and record-keeping and the choice of tracing systems are national prerogatives, States undertake:

(a) To strengthen national measures on the marking of small arms and light weapons, including, to the extent possible, marking upon import, and, where possible, measures against the removal or alteration of markings and for the recovery of erased or altered markings; and, where appropriate and feasible, to also mark components of the weapon in addition to those that are deemed essential or structural, in accordance with paragraph 10 of the International Tracing Instrument, in order to assist in tracing;

(b) To enhance procedures for the accurate identification of small arms and light weapons and the establishment of accurate and comprehensive record-keeping, including, to the extent possible, the applicable training of relevant personnel, including when appropriate those working in law enforcement on matters relating to the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument;

(c) To strengthen, when necessary and in accordance with their constitutional processes, inter-agency coordination at the national level in order to facilitate timely responses to tracing requests by, inter alia, enhancing the access of points of contact to relevant information;

(d) To enhance the exchange of tracing results, as well as other relevant information, between appropriate authorities at the national, regional and

international levels in conformity with paragraphs 14 and 15 of the International Tracing Instrument in order to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons;

(e) To cooperate, when appropriate, with relevant bodies, organs and missions of the United Nations, as well as with relevant regional organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates and competencies, with respect to the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons in accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, in particular those relating to the protection of confidential information and of ongoing criminal investigations;

(f) To designate, where they have not done so, as soon as possible and before the next review conference, one or more national points of contact in accordance with paragraph 25 of the International Tracing Instrument, including to facilitate cooperation in tracing in accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, and to update this information regularly.

B. Implementation

3. Taking into account the importance of national measures and international cooperation and assistance to the full and effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, States undertake:

(a) To put in place, where they do not exist, or strengthen as appropriate in accordance with the International Tracing Instrument and with their constitutional processes, the laws, regulations and administrative procedures needed for the effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument;

(b) To increase, as needed and appropriate, national, regional and global efforts for cooperation on legal and administrative aspects related to the effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument;

(c) To provide, when in a position to do so and upon request, adequate technical and financial assistance, relevant technologies, equipment, in particular marking machines, and training in order to improve national marking, record-keeping and tracing capacities necessary for the effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument;

(d) To include, where appropriate and in accordance with the International Tracing Instrument, in their small arms and light weapons tracing procedures the use of INTERPOL tracing and firearm identification tools, and to enhance cooperation, as appropriate, with relevant international organizations in building capacity, upon request, for marking, record-keeping and tracing;

(e) To enhance the sharing of information on national practices related to markings used to indicate country of manufacture and/or country of import, as applicable, in accordance with paragraph 31 of the International Tracing Instrument, making use, on a voluntary basis, of the relevant online information platform of the Office for Disarmament Affairs;

(f) To enhance linkages, when appropriate, for those States that are parties to them, with the Protocol against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and other relevant legally

binding instruments with regard to efforts to implement the International Tracing Instrument at the national, regional and global levels;

(g) To provide further information in their national reports, and to request the Secretary-General to submit an initial report, drawing on views of States, on experiences on the following issues, for their consideration at relevant future meetings decided upon at this Conference:

(i) The implications of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing;

(ii) Practical steps to ensure the continued and enhanced effectiveness of national marking, record-keeping and tracing systems in the light of such developments;

(iii) Relevant practices in relation to international assistance and capacity-building, including ways to support the transfer, uptake and effective utilization of relevant tools and technologies;

(h) To continue to submit information on their implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, in accordance with paragraph 36 thereof, including as part of their voluntary Programme of Action reports, and to utilize these national reports, including where appropriate, the online clearing house mechanism that matches needs with resources, to submit assistance requests;

(i) To utilize the national reports to share information, where appropriate, on the provision of technical, financial and other assistance, including the provision of relevant equipment, such as marking machines, and technology, as well as, when applicable, information on the provision of expertise for the development of relevant regulatory and legal measures.